



St John Fisher Roman Catholic Church

80 Imperial Close, North Harrow, HA2 7LW, 020 8868 7531

www.stjohnfisheronline.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Shaun Middleton, 020 8429 5684, shaunmiddleton@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Catechist: Kay O'Connor, 020 8429 5682, kayoconnor@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Claudia McHugh, 020 8429 5681, claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk (9.30am-1.30pm, Mon-Wed-Fri)

12th January 2014 ~ The Baptism of the Lord

We Welcome...

People of All Faiths and Cultures
Divorced or Separated Persons
Families with Children
Those in Loving Relationships
Those in Difficulty
Married Couples
Single Persons
Those in Recovery
Travellers from Far and Near
Widows and Widowers
Visitors

We Seek...

To live the Gospel of Jesus Christ
To Gather the Community and Tell the Story
To Sing and Make Music to the Lord
To Break the Bread and Share the Cup

We Celebrate...

Diversity
A spirit of hospitality
The unity that God wills
Enlightening those who seek God
Forming small faith communities
Reaching out to alienated Catholics
Reverencing the dignity of each person
Caring for the needs of the less fortunate
Empowering Christians to realise their call
Providing a spiritual Oasis
Honouring an understanding among all faiths
Nurturing our gifts and sharing them



John had done a great job of preparing the people for the coming of Jesus. St. Matthew records that "Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptized by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins," (3.6) In the harsh solitude of the desert John had made the people ready

for what would be a life-changing encounter with Jesus.

Never for a moment did John expect that Jesus would join the crowd in seeking to be baptized by him! John vehemently objected, "It is I who need baptism from you, and yet you come to me!" The reply of Jesus was even more emphatic, "Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that uprightness demands." For Jesus it would have been utterly wrong for Him to stand as an aloof spectator to what was most obviously a God-inspired dramatic occurrence.

John, therefore, went ahead in baptizing Jesus. Righteousness had demanded this. In so doing the Baptist had been given a glimpse of what it meant for the Son of God to become the Son of Mary - one of us, a member of the human family, a child of Adam. In this John had received a hint of how it would be throughout the ministry of Jesus.

Jesus Himself made it clear to His disciples that, 'the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many,' (Mtt.20.28). When insisting that John should baptize Him Jesus wished to melt into the crowd of the marginalized and rejects of society. Being with them in their kind of underworld, Jesus would raise them up; meet them in their despair and give them hope; accompany them in their pain and console and cure them; accept them in their shame and forgive them.

No wonder Jesus insisted John should treat Him in the same way as he was treating repentant sinners – baptizing Him together with them! What a privilege for John to be the one to enable Jesus to set the style and tone for His own Mission and Ministry of finding what was lost and of healing what was sick.

Fr. Shaun.

Mass Times & Intentions

Saturday 11th January (First Mass of Sunday)

18.00 Bernard Lynch RIP & David Owens RIP

Sunday 12th – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

08.30 People of the Parish

10.00 Mary O'Reilly (Anniv)

11.30 Matilda Anton (Anniv)

Monday 13th – Feria, First Week of Year 2

09.30 Daniel & Agnes O'Sullivan (Anniv)

Tuesday 14th – Feria

09.30 Brian, Helen & Maureen Gaffney (Anniv)

Wednesday 15th – Feria

19.00 Rose & Ted Harrington RIP

Thursday 16th – Feria

09.30 The Froh Family (Special Int.)

Friday 17th – St Anthony, Abbot

09.30 Brian Sharkey RIP

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 17.15-17.45

Please keep the sick in your prayers. A list of sick parishioners is displayed on the notice board at the back of the Church.

Recently Deceased, Charles Harris, Lionel Wood.

Pray Also For, Mary O'Reilly, Matilda Anton, Daniel & Agnes O'Sullivan, Brian, Helen & Maureen Gaffney, Anna Chenley, James Murray, Marie Bayross, Elsie Yim, Nora Duffy, Myra Mehandra, Susan Gibbs, John Murphy, Bill Kennedy, Millicent Mabin, Ratnadurai Thayaparan, Allen Morgan, John Slavin, George Rolt, Marguerite Dalgliesh, Jane Hubert, Jesuthasan Daniel, Clement Onwuachu, Ian Scott, Loretta Souza, Graham Cooke, Freda Glynn, John McGovern, Ron Press, Ellen Deely, Nora Mackie, Larry Gibbons and Julia Moran whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Weekday Mass Will take place in the small hall until further notice.

Welcome Ministry Rota Is ready for collection in the porch.

Planned Giving Envelopes This is not an appeal! However, I know there was a mix up over envelopes in 2013 and I would like to get it sorted for 2014. So, if you requested envelopes but did not receive them, or have any queries over envelopes, standing orders, or Gift Aid, I will be in the porch after all Masses this weekend. *Ann Anderson*

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Next meeting on Wednesday, 15th January after 7pm Mass is a bring and buy sale.

Bethany Group Next meeting on Thursday, 16th January at 7.30pm in the **small hall**. Members to bring a small plate of something to share at the end of the meeting.

SVP Lottery Tickets for this years' Grand SVP Lottery will be on sale in the porch after all Masses next weekend. All contributions gratefully received, as it is our main fund raising event. For prizes and details, please see the poster on the porch notice board.

St John Fisher Social Club Membership subscriptions are now due and can be renewed during club opening hours or after Mass in the porch on 18th and 19th January. Please note our AGM is on Sunday, 9th February at 7.30pm in the small hall.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on 20th - 25th January Pope Francis has said "Yes, for me ecumenism is a priority". CTNH Services will be held each day at Noon at the following Churches: **Monday, 20th St John Fisher at Elmfield Church;** Tuesday - North

Harrow Methodist Church; Wednesday - Rayners Lane Baptist Church; Thursday - St George's Church; Friday - Elmfield Church and Saturday - St Alban's Church. Your support for St John Fisher's Ecumenical service will be most welcome. Simple refreshments will be available after each service.

Feast of Our Lady of Banneux At St Bernadette's, Hillingdon on Wednesday, 15th January at 7.30pm for Mass. Reception after Mass in the Hall, everybody welcome. For more info please ring Maria Hare 01895 420753.

Westminster Cathedral Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes Will take place at 2pm on Saturday, 8th February. Archbishop Vincent Nichols will preside and the Mass will include the Sacrament of the Sick. All are welcome, no seat reservations or tickets. If you are bringing a wheelchair, please tell your parish priest so that he can reserve space for wheelchairs and carers.

Choose Life, Choose Love on Fri, 28th Feb – Sun, 2nd March A weekend conference on "Beauty, Freedom & the Family" at St Patrick's Church, 21a Soho Square, W1D 4NR. Advance booking essential, for contact details see poster on porch noticeboard.

Our Lady of Sorrows Support Group for bereaved parents Meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month at 7.30-9pm at Our Lady & St Thomas of Canterbury, 22 Roxborough Park, Harrow on the Hill, HA1 3BE. For more info contact Elpida 07979 840663.

Archbishop's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 7th June 2014 at 3pm The Archbishop will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2014. If you qualify, please contact Claudia on claudiamchugh@rcdow.org.uk or 8429 5681 by **Friday, 28th February** with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and e-mail (or telephone number if no e-mail).

Diocese of Westminster Vacancies Property Services Administrator to the Property Manager & the team as a whole at our Hendon offices and part-time Parish Administrator at Sacred Heart of Jesus, Holloway. Please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/jobs/.

Harrow Foodbank The generosity of people towards the Foodbank has been amazing. We have now fed over 1,200 people and have been able to contribute food to such places as Crisis for Christmas, and school breakfast clubs. We are now appealing for items which are running low like long life, full fat milk; long life fruit juices; tinned tuna, tinned potatoes, tinned tomatoes; toiletries; cleaning products; nappies, especially sizes 3, 4 & 5. If you could bring one or two items from the list to the church next weekend (the church is closed on weekdays) it would be very much appreciated. Many thanks from Harrow Foodbank.

Accommodation Required Mature couple relocating from Ireland to Harrow in April 2014 are looking for a bedsit with own bathroom or a one bedroom flat to rent in Harrow or surrounding areas. Needs to be a quiet area with good transport links and reasonable rent. Please contact + 00353 087 7532181 or email lavin.martina@gmail.com.

Restoration The works to re-order the sanctuary have started and as you can see good progress is being made. We will try to keep you updated as much as possible and you can follow us on twitter @SJFHarrow to see pictures.